

February 1, 2021

# **MEHDI HERAVI GLOBAL TEACHING & LEARNING CENTER**

## **FY22 State Funded Capital Development Project Request**

Presented by  
President Noelle E. Cockett

**UtahStateUniversity**<sup>®</sup>

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## Workforce Need:

Summary from the 2019 report “Making Languages Our Business: Addressing Foreign Language Demand Among U.S. Employees”

Commissioned by  
The American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages

## What Foreign Languages Mean for U.S. Employers

**9 out of 10**   
rely on employees with language skills other than English

**56%**   
say their foreign language demand will increase in the next five years

### Most In-Demand Foreign Languages Reported by U.S. Employers



### The Foreign Language Skills Gap\*

**1 in 3**   
foreign language-dependent U.S. employers reports a **language skills gap**

**1 in 4**   
U.S. employers lost business due to a **lack of foreign language skills**

\*A foreign language skills gap occurs when an employer has foreign language needs that are not currently met by its employees.

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## Purpose of the Project:

- Utah's increasingly global economy needs college graduates with advanced language skills
- Language learning is enhanced in purpose-designed space
- Immersive conversational comprehension occurs when languages learning, support and resources are combined into a single facility



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## Scope of the Project:

- Foreign Language units in the Department of Languages, Philosophy, and Communications Studies (*currently in 4 buildings*)
- Intensive English Language Institute (*currently housed separately from Foreign Languages*)
- Expanded teaching, conversational, and computer writing labs (*currently 1,331 NSF, proposed 2,320 NSF*)
- Centralized student advising, study, and tutoring rooms (*currently 0 NSF, proposed 2,300 NSF*)



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## Timely Completion for Students:

- Over 2,200 students enroll in 1000- and 2000-level languages classes, generating over 17,000 SCHs each year
- Nearly 2/3 of students in lower-division language classes are non-humanities majors
- Commitment from department to add upper-level language courses specific to majors (Engineering, Health Services, Business, Agriculture)
- “Immersive comprehension” will occur in a languages-focused building



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## Capacity of the Project:

- The new facility will house language majors (~200 students ) and minors (~550 students) in Spanish, Chinese, Portuguese, Arabic, German, French, Linguistics, Russian and Japanese
- Language needs of students in programs outside the department (~1,000) will be served
- International students will be connected with other USU students learning their language
- Consolidation of language faculty will allow temporary space to revert to previous uses (7,900 NSF)



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## Affordability of the Project:

- Project scope is dramatically scaled back from FY19 request and now focuses only on essential space for language programs (38,500 GSF)
- Project budget is modest (\$17M) but still meets critical needs
- State support is reduced because major donors have indicated a willingness to make significant contributions



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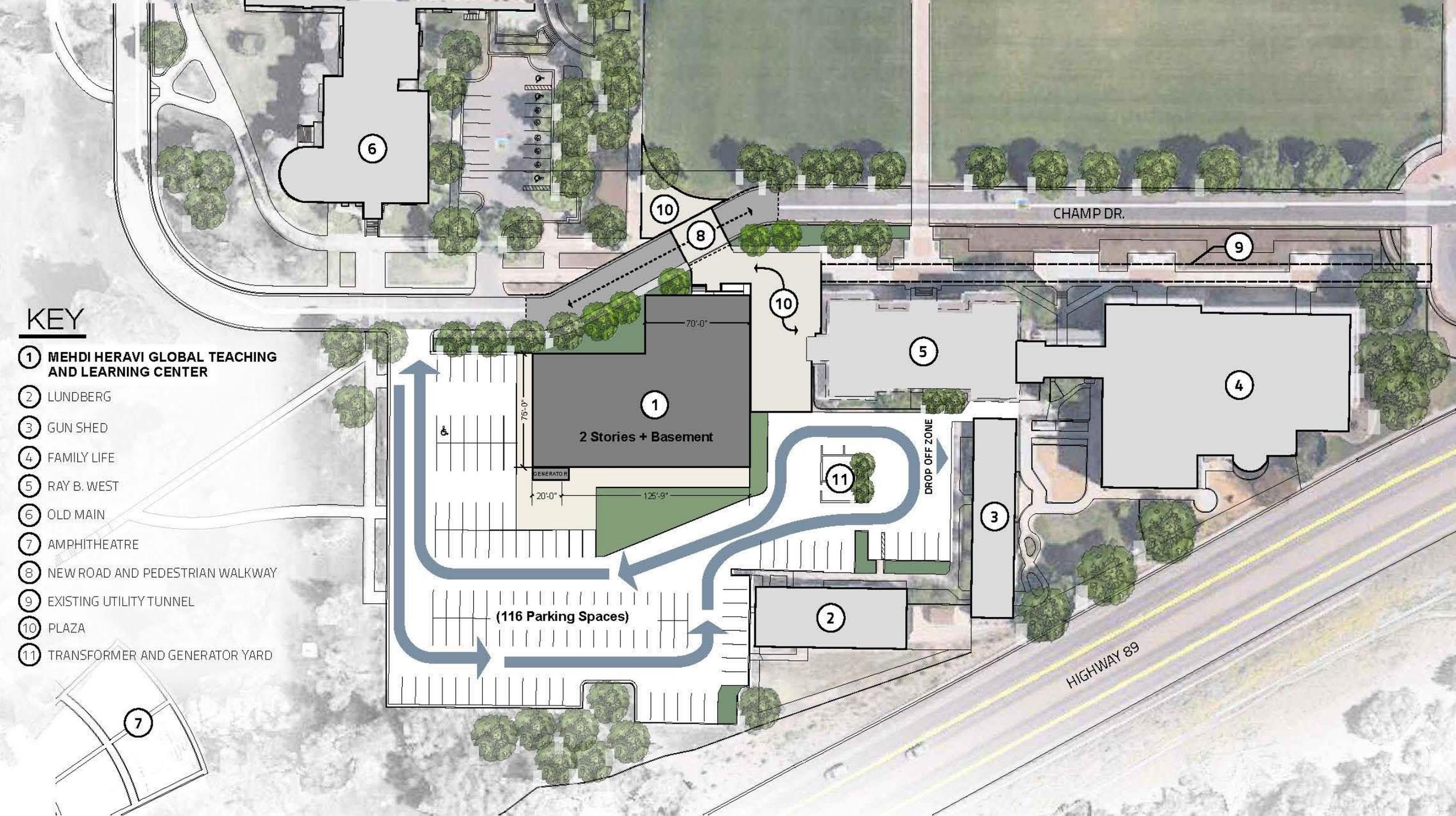
## Project Budget:

PRELIMINARY COST ESTIMATE	\$17 M
TOTAL PROJECT SPACE (GSF)	38,429
New Space (GSF)	38,429
Remodeled Space (GSF)	0
Space to be Demolished (GSF)	0
Net/Gross Ratio	44%
INCREASE IN-STATE FUNDED O&M	\$332,113
OTHER SOURCES OF FUNDING	\$2.5 M
STATE FUNDED REQUEST	\$14.5 M



# KEY

- 1 MEHDI HERAVI GLOBAL TEACHING AND LEARNING CENTER
- 2 LUNDBERG
- 3 GUN SHED
- 4 FAMILY LIFE
- 5 RAY B. WEST
- 6 OLD MAIN
- 7 AMPHITHEATRE
- 8 NEW ROAD AND PEDESTRIAN WALKWAY
- 9 EXISTING UTILITY TUNNEL
- 10 PLAZA
- 11 TRANSFORMER AND GENERATOR YARD





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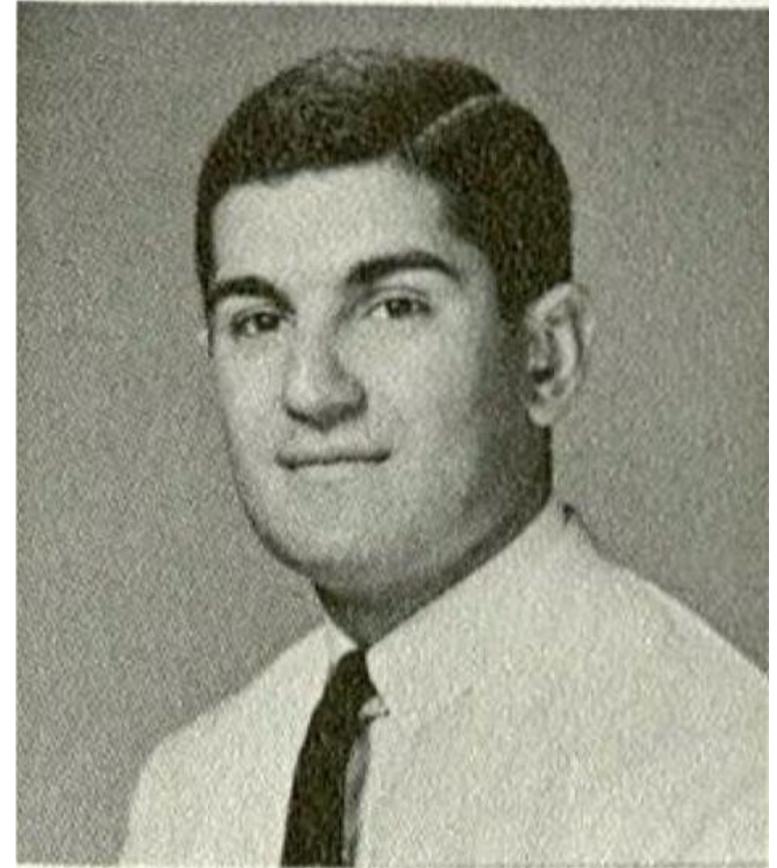
## Support for the Project:

- Businesses across Utah, especially on the Wasatch Front, are increasingly global in scope
- Returning missionaries from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will expand language skills from cultural conversation to technical and written comprehension in their majors
- Leadership of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints are supportive of the educational expansion for languages



# Dr. Mehdi Heravi

- **1963** – Bachelor's Degree in Political Science, USU
- **1964** – Master's Degree in Political Science, USU
- **1967** – Ph.D., American University School of International Service in Washington, DC
- **1967** – Tennessee Technological University – teaching position
- **1973** – Vice President at National University of Iran  
Philanthropist - supports an orphanage located in northern Iran, supports several organizations related to cerebral palsy



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“I have faith in humanity. And hopefully I will continue to have good health so I can achieve the things I want to achieve. Having a low aim in life is a crime. The sky is the limit and humanity is the priority.”

- Dr. Mehdi Heravi

